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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/813,914	03/22/2001	Kenji Araki	NIP-232	4685

24956 7590 02/17/2006

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

FREJD, RUSSELL WARREN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2128

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/813,914

Examiner

Russell Frejd

Applicant(s)

ARAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's Rule 312 Amendment received 1 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


**RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

In re Application of: Araki et al.

Supplemental Allowance of Application # 09/813,914

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's Rule 312 Amendment, received 1-March-2005. The examiner respectfully acknowledges acceptance of:

the amendment to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.312, wherein a typographical change was made to Figure 3; and

the claim for priority and receipt of priority documents on 22-March-2001 (each of which was already accepted and noted as such on the Bibliographic Data Sheet of 25-June-2004).

The following statements are duplicates of the original Examiner's Amendment/Reasons for Allowance submitted on 29-November-2004. No changes have been made.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2.1 In the Abstract:

lines 7 and 8 Change "pips" to --pipes--.

line 12 Delete --[Selection Figure] Fig. 1--.

In re Application of: Araki et al.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 4,935,195, issued to Palusamy et al., and the information described in the article authored by Ferng et al., entitled *Prediction of Pipe Thinning Location for Nuclear Power Plant and It's Application to Pipe Wall Monitoring*. The improvement comprises a method of offering wall-thickness thinning prediction information in which wall-thickness data of piping parts for specifying wall-thickness values of the piping parts is received from a client, and simulated wall-thickness data of the piping parts is offered to the client, wherein the behavior of fluid flowing inside a pipe line is simulated based on the wall-thickness and three-dimensional layout of the pipe, whereby the simulated wall-thickness data of the piping parts composing the pipe line is calculated from the change of the simulated behavior of the fluid. This patentable distinction is included in each of the independent claims, nos. 1, 4 and 5. The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the useful, concrete and tangible <pipe part wall-thickness thinning prediction> having the corresponding structure which is disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof at least at page 10, line 8 through page 43, line 16, and Figures 1-36. In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

Response Guidelines

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

In re Application of: Araki et al.

Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4.1 Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be

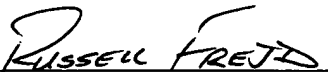
directed to: Russell Frejd, telephone number (571) 272-3779, Monday-Friday from 0530 to 1400 ET, or the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah, telephone number (571) 272-2279. Inquires of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group Receptionist (571) 272-2100.

mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to: (571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

Date: 9-February-2006



**RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**